

Springdale Fire Department

Policy & Procedures Manual

Volume 2 – Operations

Section 203 – Fire Operations

203.17 Incident Action Plans for Structure Fires

First arriving company officers at structure fires shall assume Command of the incident and develop an initial incident action plan. Company officers possess the authority to make tactical assignments appropriate to the needs of the situation and to alter unit(s) pre-assigned tasks.

Once the initial action plan is developed, the initial arriving company officer is to communicate the plan over the tactical radio channel in use to other resources assigned to the incident. First arriving company officers shall communicate what initial operational tasks are being conducted. For example: “Engine 4 will be advancing a 1 ¾” hose line through the Charlie entrance for fire attack, Squad 4 will be assisting Engine 4 and conducting an initial primary search. Engine 3 will need to advance a second 1 ¾” hand line to the upstairs to conduct a primary search and check for fire extension.”

This plan may be altered at any time during the incident based on further findings and operational needs. Later arriving command officers may further alter the IAP after assuming command from the company officer.

There are several factors to consider in creating an initial incident action plan which should include the following.

1. If there is an obvious working fire, can (or should) the first arriving engine company establish its' own water supply?
2. Should the first arriving engine drop a supply line at the driveway and lay in to the structure and direct the water supply engine company to continue the layout to the hydrant?
3. Is there a potential for rescue that requires immediate action, in place of attacking the fire?
4. What immediate support is needed to accomplish a potential rescue; is there an immediate need for a hose line to provide protection to the crew attempting the rescue or for immediate ventilation to improve interior conditions?
5. Are there severely threatened exposures that require protection before attacking the fire?
6. Should the second arriving engine company be directed to establish water supply, or should it be given a different task?
7. Are there specific and or extreme hazards to personnel (electrical hazards, structural integrity concerns, etc.) that must be mitigated before attacking the fire?
8. What is the best mode of attacking the fire: exterior versus interior attack?
9. What is the appropriate size of attack: 1 ¾” or 2 ½” and what is the appropriate GPM, or is a master stream most appropriate?

10. Should the responding truck company be directed to a specific location and set up the aerial or should it be directed to place ground ladders in specific locations?
11. Are adequate resources responding (where is the fire now, where will it be in five minutes)?
12. If the initial size up indicates nothing showing, should any of the other responding units be directed to stage prior to arriving on scene?

The above factors are intended to be a guide and are not all inclusive. Company Officers and Command Officers are expected to utilize their training and experience to formulate an Incident Action Plan that is appropriate to each particular incident.